

VLR-4/17/73 NRHP-6/4/73

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Virginia

COUNTY:

Alexandria (in City)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON

Bank of Alexandria

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

133 North Fairfax Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Alexandria

(Stanford E. Parris Eighth District Congressman)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY:

in City

CODE

510

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building  
☐ Site ☐ Structure  
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public  
☐ Private  
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process  
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied  
☒ Unoccupied  
☐ Preservation work  
in progress

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:  
☐ Restricted  
☐ Unrestricted  
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments  
☒ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY William M. Lightsey, Executive Director

OWNER'S NAME:

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:

10680 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Fairfax

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

51

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Clerk of Courts, Alexandria City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

Royal and Cameron Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Alexandria

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D.C.

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ST. E. Virginia  
 COUNTY: Alexandria (in City)  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER  
 DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The bank building consists of a main portion, three stories above a basement, with a coeval wing of two stories above a basement to the east. The main block extends five bays (approximately thirty-nine feet) along Fairfax Street and seven bays (approximately eighty-two feet) along Cameron Street. A cut stone water table (now stuccoed) rises to first floor level of the main block. Above this the brickwork is laid in a regular Flemish bond up to an ornately carved stone cornice. This cornice is surmounted by a stone balustrade behind which are located the present attic story windows. It is not thought that the attic is original.

The east wing, set back four inches on the Cameron Street side, has no water table. A stone foundation wall rises to basement window sill level above which the Flemish bond brickwork matches that of the main block. It is thought that this wing was built with an "A" roof, terminating in a hip at the east end.

The original windows above basement level are all of the same size, 6 lights over 6 lights, double hung sash, and are aligned vertically. The openings are fitted with stone sills and stone lintels with raised key blocks.

The Bank of Alexandria building was converted for use as the Mansion House Hotel by James Green sometime in the 1840's. This venture prospered, and extensive additions were built to the east and south about 1855. Even so, the north (Cameron Street) facade remains much as originally constructed, on the west the (front, Fairfax Street) facade has undergone only superficial changes.

There are two first floor entrances intact, one in the center bay of the Fairfax Street facade, the other on Cameron Street. Each entrance is enframed by moulded stone trim in which engaged columns support a semicircular arch fitted with a keystone bearing a handsome eagle motif.

Though the interior room arrangement has been greatly altered through the years, much of the original interior trim remains intact. Window casing and interior shutters, doors and casing and some mantels remain in remarkably good condition. Plaster cornices outlining the original room division can be traced throughout the building.

Removal of the mid-nineteenth century hotel additions will restore the bank building to its original configuration. Pieces of trim which have been removed and reused in the hotel additions are being salvaged for restoration in their proper locations.

The later additions and alterations have not obscured the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☒ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On the northwest corner of the John Carlyle property stands a three-story brick federal structure built to house the first bank chartered in the State of Virginia.

Established on November 23, 1792 by an Act of the Virginia Assembly, the Bank of Alexandria was temporarily located at 305 Cameron Street until the permanent home was completed in 1807.

This bank building represents one of the best examples of the restrained elegance incorporated into a commercial architecture. It may well have been the City's most costly building at the time of its completion, with an assessed value of \$50,000. The first floor chambers with their 14'9" high ceilings edged with molded cornices, and the spacious forty foot drawing room on the second floor indicate that the building was intended as a public showplace even then.

Among the founders of the Bank was William Herbert, son-in-law of John Carlyle. He lived in the adjacent 1752 Carlyle House for 29 years. Herbert served as the bank president for two decades. During this period he also was Mayor of Alexandria for a year in 1783 and again from 1809 to 1812.

The Bank appeared to have been an immediate success, and it is reported that on opening day all its shares were subscribed for within two hours.

The Bank's charter stockholders and clients were the City's leading families, including a family friend--George Washington.

Charles W. Stetson in his book "Washington and His Neighbors" describes Washington's delight at the receipt of a \$100 dividend from his Bank of Alexandria stock. He also reports that Washington made a bequest of 20 shares of his bank stock (\$100) to the Alexandria Academy.

When the Bank failed during the panic of 1834, its holdings were conveyed to the United States Government. For a short time it was used as a U. S. Post Office and Customs Office.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexandria Tax Assessment Records prior to 1855 from microfilm.

Snowden, W. H., "Some of Historic Landmarks of Virginia and Maryland," Alexandria, 1904.

Alexandria Deed Book U-2, Circuit Court, page 735.

Henings Statutes at Large, Vol. 13, p. 592.

"Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser", Feb. 28, 1843.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0		"	0		"	38°	48'	19"
NE	0		"	0		"			
SE	0		"	0		"			
SW	0		"	0		"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

William M. Lightsey, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

DATE

December 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

10680 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Fairfax

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

J. R. Fishburne, Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title

Date

4/17/72

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

6/4/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

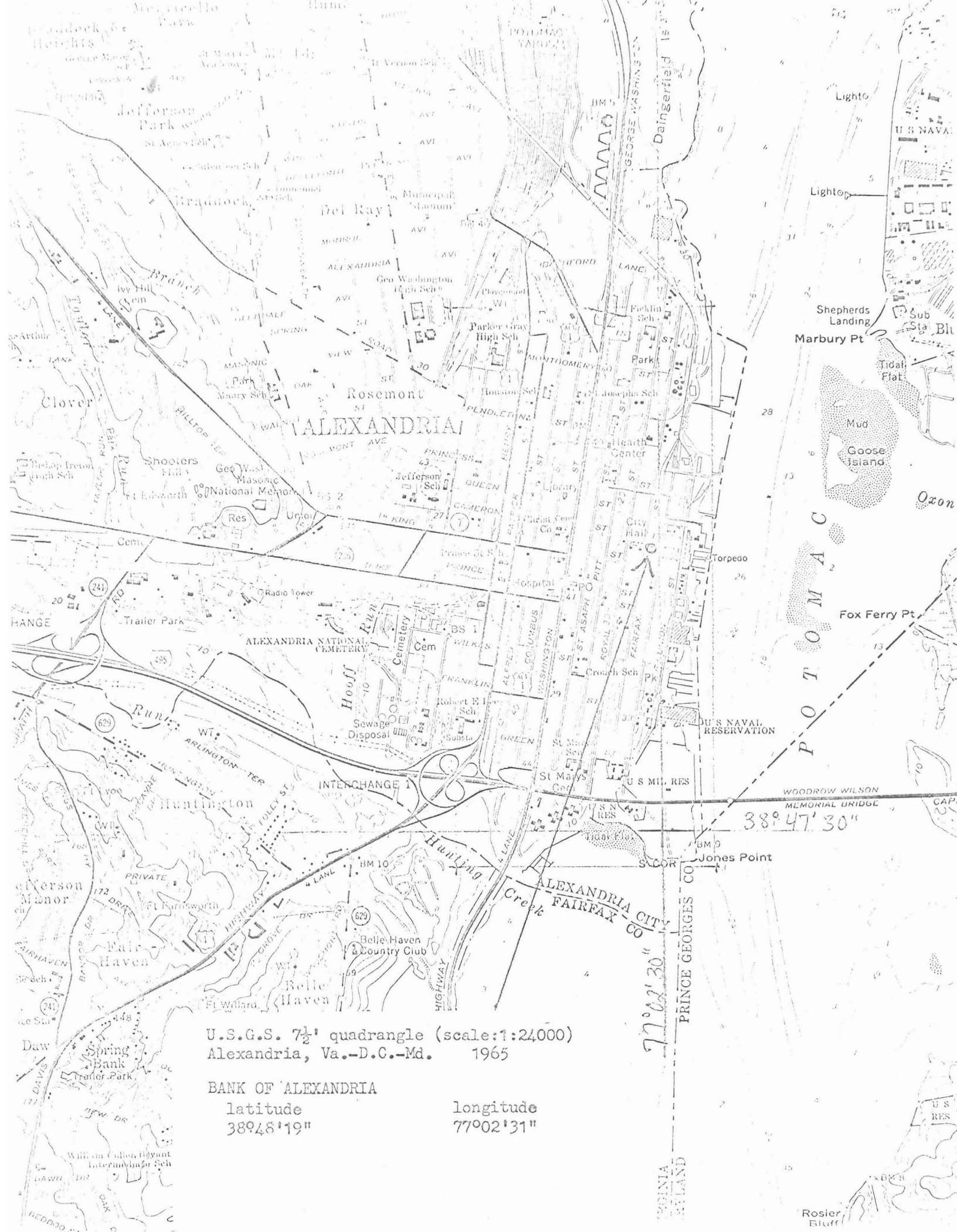
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Alexandria (in City)	
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(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Alexandria, Va.-D.C.-Md. 1965

BANK OF ALEXANDRIA

latitude  
38°48'19"

longitude  
77°02'31"